

**Londonderry Town Council Minutes**

**Monday, November 21, 2022**

**7:00 PM**

**Moose Hill Council Chambers**

**Attendance:** Present: Chairman John Farrell; Vice Chairman Joe Green; Councilor Chad Franz, and Deb Paul; Town Manager Michael Malaguti; Finance Director Justin Campo; Absent: Councilor Jim Butler

**Call to Order**

Chairman Farrell called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge was led by Chairman Farrell. This was followed by a moment of silence for all those who have served us both here in Londonderry, and all of the residents, especially during the holiday season.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Name:** Daniel Bouchard

**Address:** O'Connell Drive, Londonderry

Bouchard stated that the biggest contract and expense is trash, correct. Chairman Farrell stated medical is the biggest. Bouchard stated that he is a recycler. When you drive down the road and see recycle barrels and you see trash that shouldn't be in there. It goes and gets dumped. Chairman Farrell stated that there are two separate trucks and the recycle truck goes to a different place. There is a sorting process and there are things tied to that sorting process including penalty for things that shouldn't be in there but we still get credit for actual recycling is but there is some associated cost for taking things out of recycling that shouldn't be there. Bouchard asked how we can educate people better one what belongs in recycling and what doesn't. Lynn Wiles, Chair of Solid Waste and Environmental Committee, stated that the towns recycling goes down to Billerica, MA where they have a different system than Auburn. It's a constant problem across the country, and through the Committee it has been addressed.

Bouchard also asked about the sign-on bonus the Chief talked about. Bouchard stated that something like that would hurt the current employees.

**Name:** Ray Capistran

**Address:** 49 Calla Rd, Londonderry

Capistran commented on the speed limit discussion. Capistran stated that he represented Lorden Commons when it was discussed. Capistran stated that Lorden Commons will be about 135ish homes, and right now its about 90% built out. There's a lot of kids and dog walkers. Chairman Farrell asked Director of Public Works, Dave Wholley, if those roads were town acceptable.

Wholley stated that the town has accepted these roads. Chairman Farrell stated that he wanted to make sure the town had authority over them. Capistran stated that there are no streetlights or sidewalks. Capistran requested that when the discussion takes place again, he would like the town to take the speed limit down to 25 MPH in that community.

**Name:** Police Chief Bernard

Chief Bernard introduced the newest member of the Londonderry Police Department, officer Zachary Castiglione.

**Name:** Ray Breslin

**Address:** 3 Gary Drive, Londonderry

Breslin stated that there are a lot of things to consider during budget season. Breslin stated that water is very important issue right now. Breslin stated that Pennichuck Water is going before the Planning Board to get approval for a water tank, which will somewhat benefit the town to support Woodmont, but there's an eight-inch line on Mammoth Road that no one wants to talk about. The town should be talking to Pennichuck, this is a concern. Breslin stated that this is about safety and they don't want to talk about it.

**Name:** Councilor Chad Franz

Councilor Franz stated that this past week he had the opportunity to do a ride along with the PD and the FD. Councilor Franz stated that he was very impressed with the professionalism and how they run.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Motion:** Motion to open the Public Hearing made by Vice Chairman Green/

**Second:** Councilor Franz

Chair votes 4-0-0.

## **Charter Amendment Section 5.7 Treasurer**

Town Manager Michael Malaguti presented. Malaguti stated that this has been discussed for a year and raised during the last budget cycle. Right now, there is a treasurer elected to a three-year term. Malaguti stated that because of a strange feature in the statute, this was unable to be on the ballot last year. Malaguti stated that a consensus from the Council moved this forward for a public hearing to discuss whether the Town Treasurer should be appointed, instead of elected. Malaguti stated that adopting this amended will place us in line with communities of like size. Malaguti stated that it would improve efficiency. Those communities that have elected Treasurers, tend to be smaller communities. Malaguti stated that the proposal in front of the Council is to change the method of installation from elected to appointed. The Treasurer would still continue to serve a three-year term. The current Treasurer would serve until their term was up and then the Council

83 would appoint a new one.

84  
85 Councilor Paul asked how long the town has had a Charter. Malaguti stated that since 1996.  
86 Councilor Paul asked why the town needs to be in line with big towns. Malaguti stated that we  
87 have a professional workforce, a professional Town Council, and you want to be in line with the  
88 communities who have the same things. Councilor Paul stated that if we are in line and this isn't  
89 broke, and hasn't been broke, why do we need to fix it. Finance Director Campo stated that there  
90 is a risk where we could get someone who doesn't know anything, or we could get someone who  
91 does know the job. If he didn't bring it to the Councils attention, it would fall back on him. It needs  
92 to be someone who knows the job. It is up to the Town Council on how to proceed forward. Town  
93 Manager Malaguti stated that every single expense a department makes is reviewed by the  
94 department head, by Justin, and reviewed by him. Malaguti stated that Finance Director Campo  
95 produces, upon request, things the town pays for and who the town is paying it to. In the past it  
96 was done for Town Council, and it is something that they are happy to continue to do. Malaguti  
97 stated that the towns financial oversight has never been stronger. Councilor Paul stated that it is still  
98 good to have someone from the outside, not in the building, looking in.

99  
100 Chairman Farrell stated that if this were to go to the voters, it would be the eighth amendment to  
101 the Charter. Chairman Farrell stated that the most significant change was in 2011 when we changed  
102 the form of government.

103  
104 Councilor Franz asked for the duties and job responsibilities of the Treasurer. Campo explained  
105 that the Town Treasurer is responsible for the finances of the town. Responsible for insuring the  
106 banking partnerships as well as allowing the deposits to be deposited in a timely manner. They  
107 verify that the financial policy, both the purchasing and all others are properly being followed, and  
108 verify that we are staying in line/compliance with all of the RSA's that are financially based.  
109 Councilor Franz asked if we have had a treasurer since the beginning of the Charter. Town  
110 Manager Malaguti stated that it was looked into but if was undetermined how long we have had a  
111 treasurer for, but probably since the beginning.

112  
113 **Name:** Tom Estey

114 **Address:** 9 Old Nashua Rd, Londonderry

115 Estey stated that this should go to the people and it shouldn't be up to the Council Chairman Farrell  
116 stated that the process is for the people to vote on it if the Council decides to move forward. If the  
117 Council decides to move forward with it today, it will go to the State. The State will look at it and  
118 decide how it looks and what we can and can't do. Once it's sent back, there will be more  
119 discussions. It may or may not go on the ballot. Chairman Farrell stated that we could decide in  
120 the end not to do it. Estey asked why it wasn't brought up a while ago. Chairman Farrell stated  
121 that there was an extended discussion about it last year. It's not up to the Council, it would have  
122 to go to the voters.

123  
124 Councilor Franz asked if the State decides that this is a good move, will there be another public  
125 hearing. Chairman Farrell stated yes, there will be.

126

127 **Name:** Daniel Bouchard

128 **Address:** O'Connell Drive, Londonderry

129 Bouchard stated that it seems rushed. We ate in the budget process, we should be focused on that.  
130 Bouchard stated that he doesn't see why the change needs to take place. Chairman Farrell clarified  
131 that the only thing changing is the Town Treasurer would not have to go through and election  
132 every three years. Bouchard asked if the Treasurer answers to the Town Manager. Chairman Farrell  
133 stated that they answer to the Department of Revenue. Bouchard stated that he would like to see  
134 someone who's qualified for the position. Bouchard asked if it was a paid position. Chairman  
135 Farrell stated that it's \$2,500 a year.

136

137 **Name:** Richard Belinski

138 **Address:** 89 Hall Rd, Londonderry

139 Belinski stated that he was the Town treasurer from 2001 until 2004. Belinski stated that he can  
140 see both sides. He sees where Justin and Mike are looking at, but he doesn't agree with it all.  
141 Belinski shared why with the Council. Belinski stated that the town didn't have a purchasing policy  
142 until he was Treasurer, and he also suggested an Assistant Treasurer. Belinski stated that this needs  
143 to be left as a third person, outside position. Checks and balances.

144

145 **Name:** John Wilson

146 **Address:** 3 Tranquil Drive, Londonderry

147 Wilson asked what the difference between a Town Treasurer and a Corporate Treasurer. Campo  
148 stated that a corporate treasurer would have more assistance in doing things. Campo stated that in  
149 most corporate situations, their treasurer would be their CFO. Wilson also asked how much time  
150 they spend in the office doing Treasure work. Campo stated that it depends on the time of year or  
151 situation.

152

153 **Name:** Jonathan Esposito

154 **Address:** 5 Shelley Drive, Londonderry

155 Esposito stated that he doesn't think it's necessary to make a change to the Charter at this time. It  
156 is an extreme move. Esposito stated that there is a lot of confidence in the voters in town and it  
157 should be left up to the voters.

158

159 **Name:** Tim Siekmann

160 **Address:** 89 Hovey Rd, Londonderry

161 Siekmann asked what the process is if the Treasurer did something they shouldn't have or weren't  
162 supposed to. How would we catch that? Chairman Farrell stated that currently there is an Assistant  
163 Town Treasurer as well. Chairman Farrell stated that there is a process in which we would have to  
164 petition the court to remove the Town Treasurer in order to have the process of town government  
165 move forward. Malaguti stated that something would be caught fairly quickly if something was  
166 done.

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**Name:** Martha Smith

**Address:** 38 Shasta Drive, Londonderry

Smith stated that if it's not broke, don't fix it. We have had an elected Treasurer for forever and most of the time its been the same Treasurer for years. Smith stated that she's not supportive of this change right now.

**Name:** Glenn Douglas

**Address:** 6 Overlook Ave., Londonderry

Douglas asked if it went to an appointment, could the Council appoint a town employee. Chairman Farrell stated that the Treasurer would have to live in town and yes, an employee could be appointed. Douglas said at that point why don't we appoint the Town Clerk, the Moderator, everyone in town so the government can decide, how it runs better. Douglas said that to him, is bad precedent. Douglas stated that he is not in support of this and voters should decide.

Councilor Franz asked if amendments can be made with what's proposed to the state. Councilor Franz asked if we can add in that employees who live in town, and are employed by the town, can't be appointed as Treasurer. Malaguti stated that the Council would have that ability, but he would need to consult counsel on how to move that forward to the state.

**Name:** Ray Breslin

**Address:** 3 Gary Drive, Londonderry

Breslin stated that between the Town Manager and Finance Director, there is already some good oversite. Breslin asked why this wasn't done last year.

Councilor Paul stated that nothing good ever happens when things are rushed. Councilor Paul suggested not rushing it through and why can't we wait until next year. Chairman Farrell stated that there is only a sixty-day window.

Chairman Farrell stated that he would accept a motion to direct the Town Manager to move the Charter amendment for 5.7 Treasurers position to the State for review. Motion made by Vice Chairman Green and seconded by Councilor Franz. Chairman Farrell stated that all of the comments tonight are valuable. This is not a final decision. This is so the Council can start to understand more about how this would work. Chair votes 3-1-0. Councilor Paul voted against. Motion passes.

**Motion:** Motion to close the Public Hearing made by Vice Chairman Green/

**Second:** Councilor Franz

Chair votes 4-0-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Budget Workshop**

The Budget Committee presented to the Council their questions about the budget, the services the Council has asked them to look at, possible services we should add or cut. Budget Committee Chair Steve Breault presented.

The topics that were covered are as follows:

- Reduce Community Services Grant to \$25K, or repurpose the \$25K amount to specific town services or needs.
- Target reductions in overtime budgets for the Police Department, Fire Department, and Department of Public Works.
- Reduce/Eliminate select programs offered by the library to defer the need of hiring another staff member.
- Look at increasing the amount we charge for our ambulance services or EMT to neighboring towns, we might not be charging enough.
- Consolidate mechanic services for departments, such as for the standard vehicles. Utilize our leverage and negotiate better rates. Same with building repairs.
- Transition to a paperless work environment to save on paper and toner related expenses. Set target dates to transition to paperless for key areas or processes, such as meeting materials, budget binders, etc.
- Conduct a feasibility study to see if there is any financial benefit to contracting out the operations at the drop off center. Much of what is dropped off probably has salvage value, the contractor can charge for other services (as we do now), and we would save on operating costs.

Police Chief Bernard presented slides to the Council and Budget Committee and spoke about the overtime breakdown at the Police Department. See attached PowerPoint. Chief Bernard stated that they can't cut corners when training, but they do a lot of in-house to cut some of the cost. Chief Bernard explained the process of overtime with training officers.

The Council discussed what positions to cut and add at both the Fire Department and the Police Department. Malaguti stated that there are twelve unfilled positions at the Police Department. There is money within the budget that can be reallocated to lines that have been neglected for years.

Finance Director Justin Campo and the Council and Budget Committee discussed vehicle maintenance funds.



**Resolution #2022-21 – A Resolution Creating the Londonderry Utilities Committee**

Town Manager Malaguti presented. Malaguti stated that there was a lot of discussion about these various utilities and the need to address the issues on a comprehensive basis. Right now, there is a Task Force that's discussing energy efficiency, but that doesn't extend out to areas like water and broadband. The suggestion was made that we adopt something more final. Malaguti went over what the committee would be responsible for doing. This would be an advisory committee and it would have appointed not elected members.

Chairman Farrell stated that the committee should have some teeth, some pull in their findings and the decisions they make. Chairman Farrell asked if a Resolution can be written in a way that, the authority wouldn't necessarily transfer from the Council to the Committee, but the Committee is given parameters in which they get the Council support in what they're doing.

Malaguti stated that the term of office is defined in the town code and he believes

Vice Chairman Green stated that there should be five voting members, and then one person from Council and one from the School Board. The Council decided to work on the Resolution and bring it back for review again at the next meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Councilor Franz stated that it lists Vice Chairman Green as absent on the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes when he was present. Motion to approve the Town Council Minutes from November 7<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup>, as amended, made by Councilor Franz and seconded by Vice Chairman Green. Chair votes 4-0-0.

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** Councilor Franz

**Second:** Councilor Paul

Chair votes 4-0-0

Minutes taken by Kirby Brown on 11/21/2022

Minutes typed by Kirby Brown on 11/29/2022

Minutes approved by Town Council on 12/05/2022





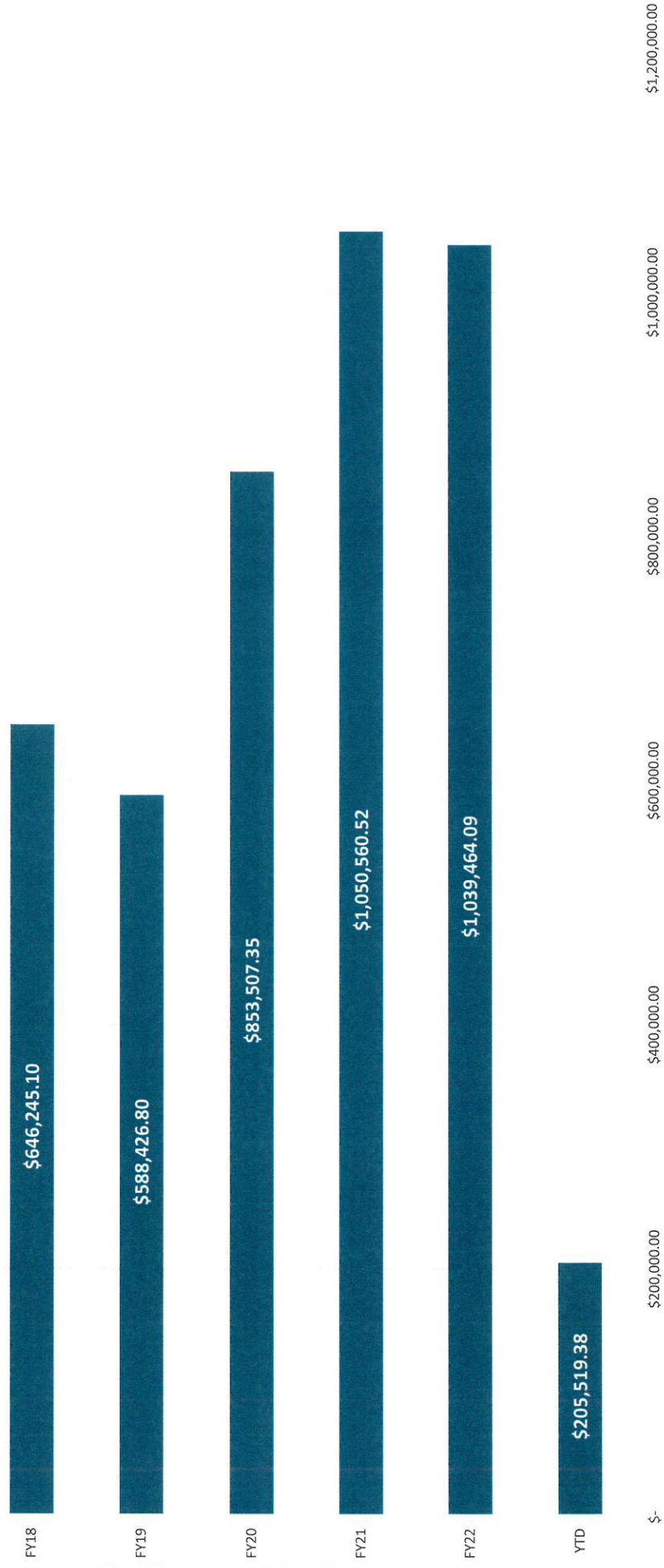


# OVERTIME BREAKDOWN REVIEW

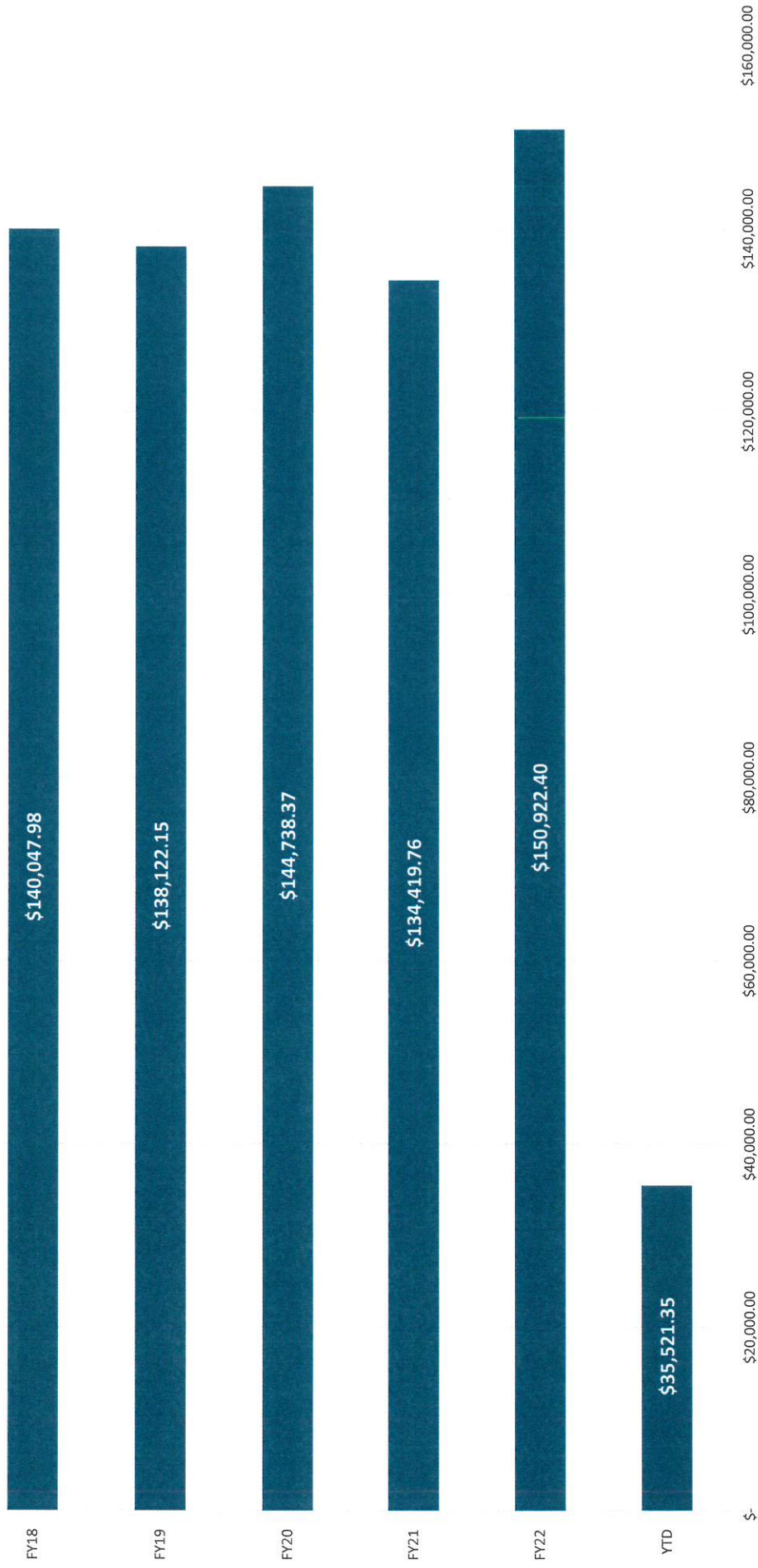
LONDONDERRY POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Overtime Totals

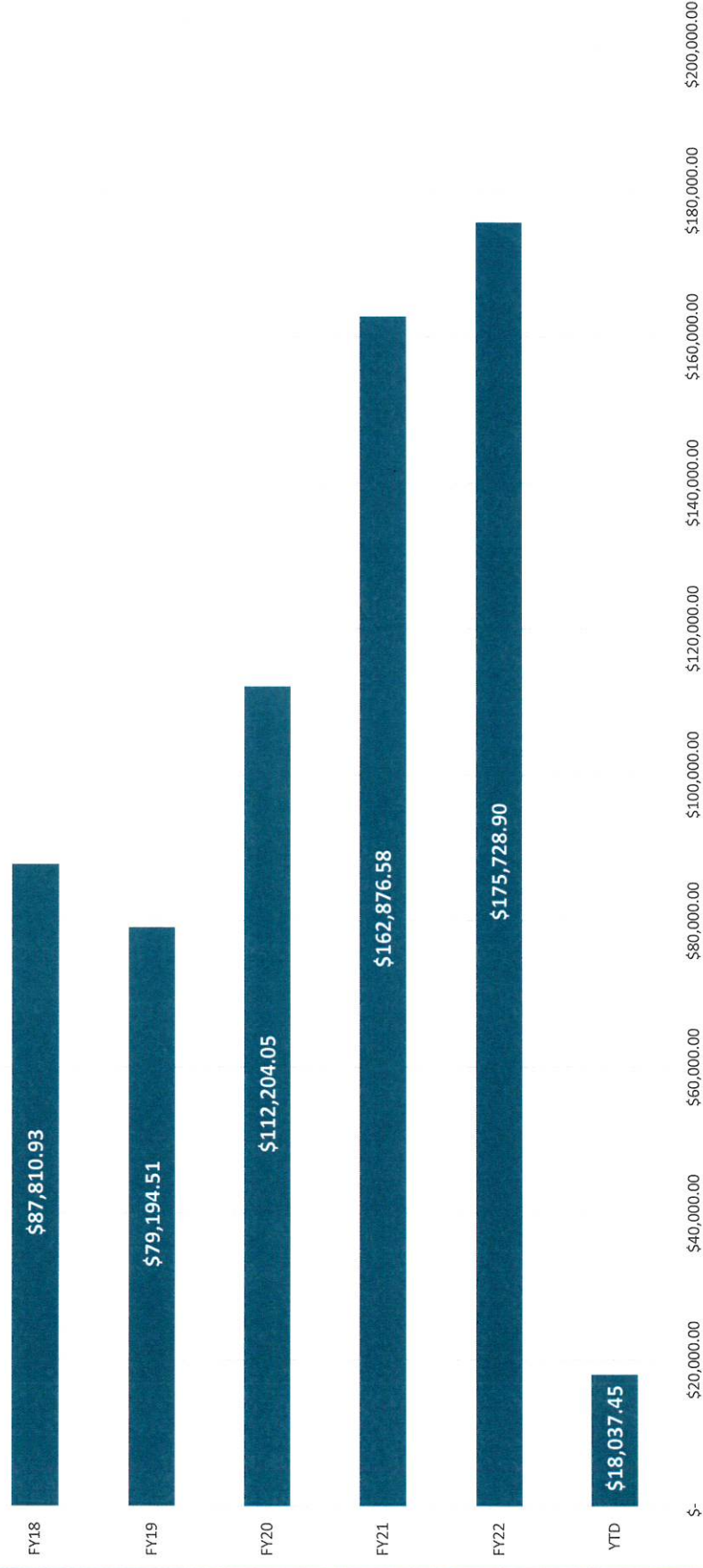


## VACATION COVERAGE

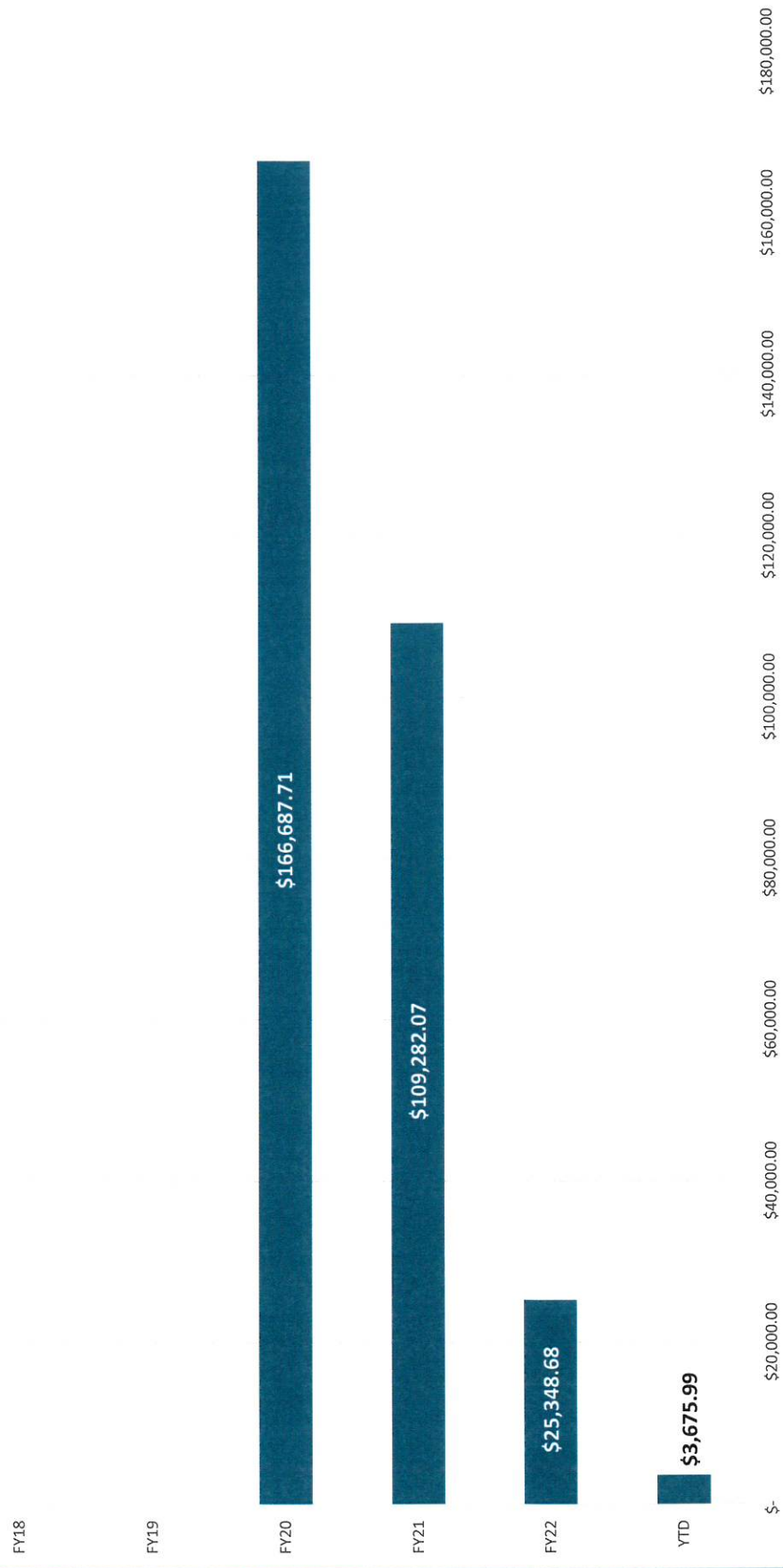




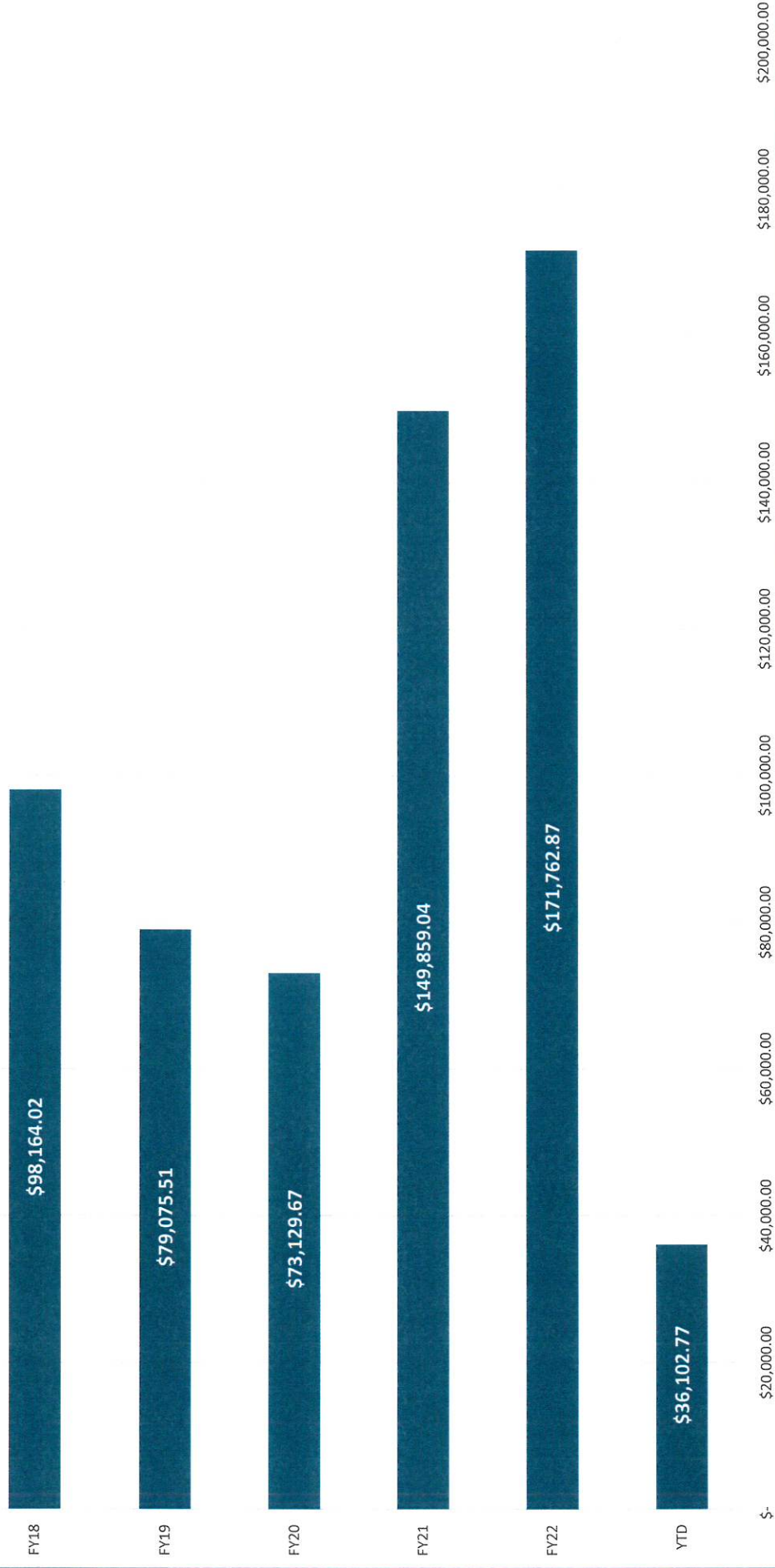
## SICK COVERAGE



## COVID

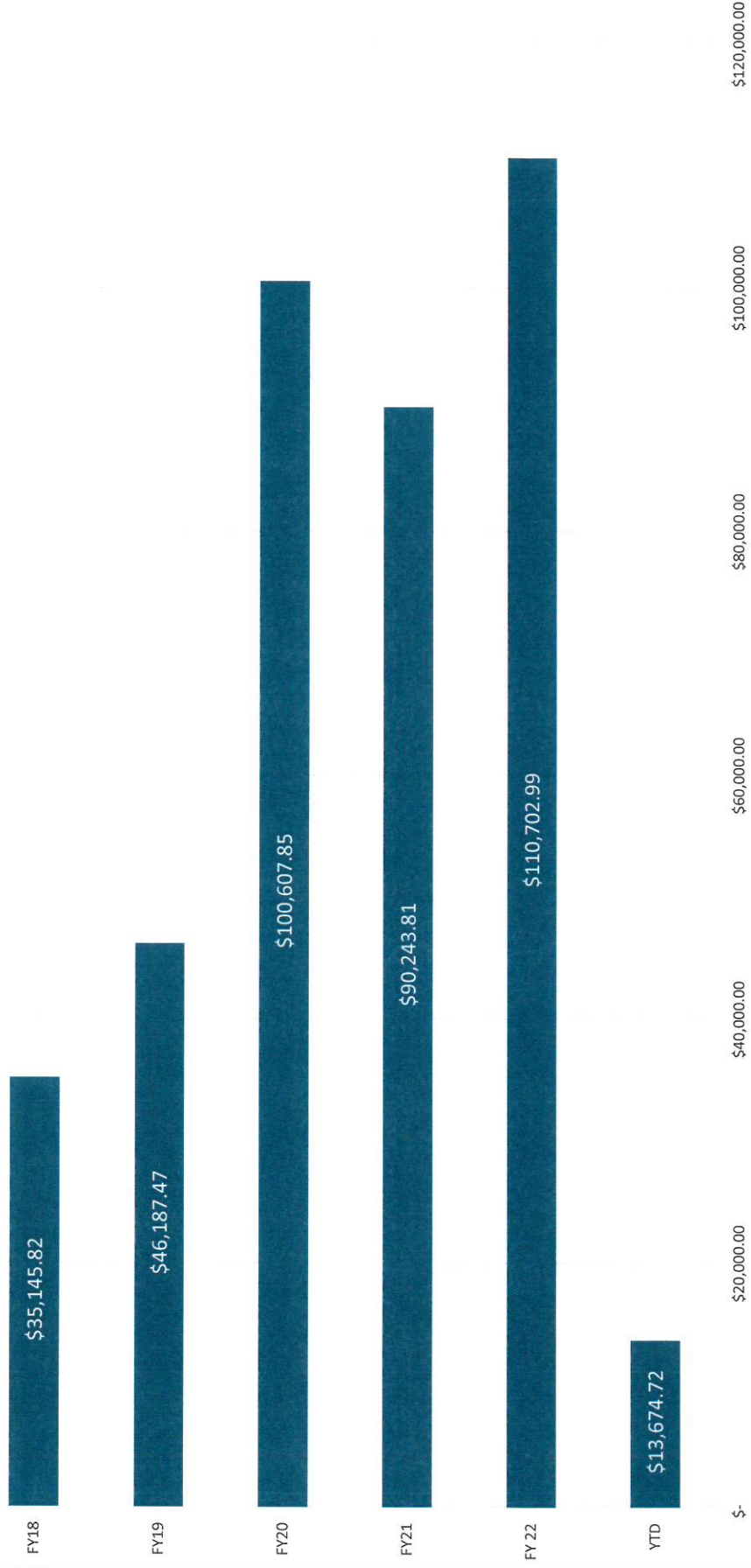


## TRAINING



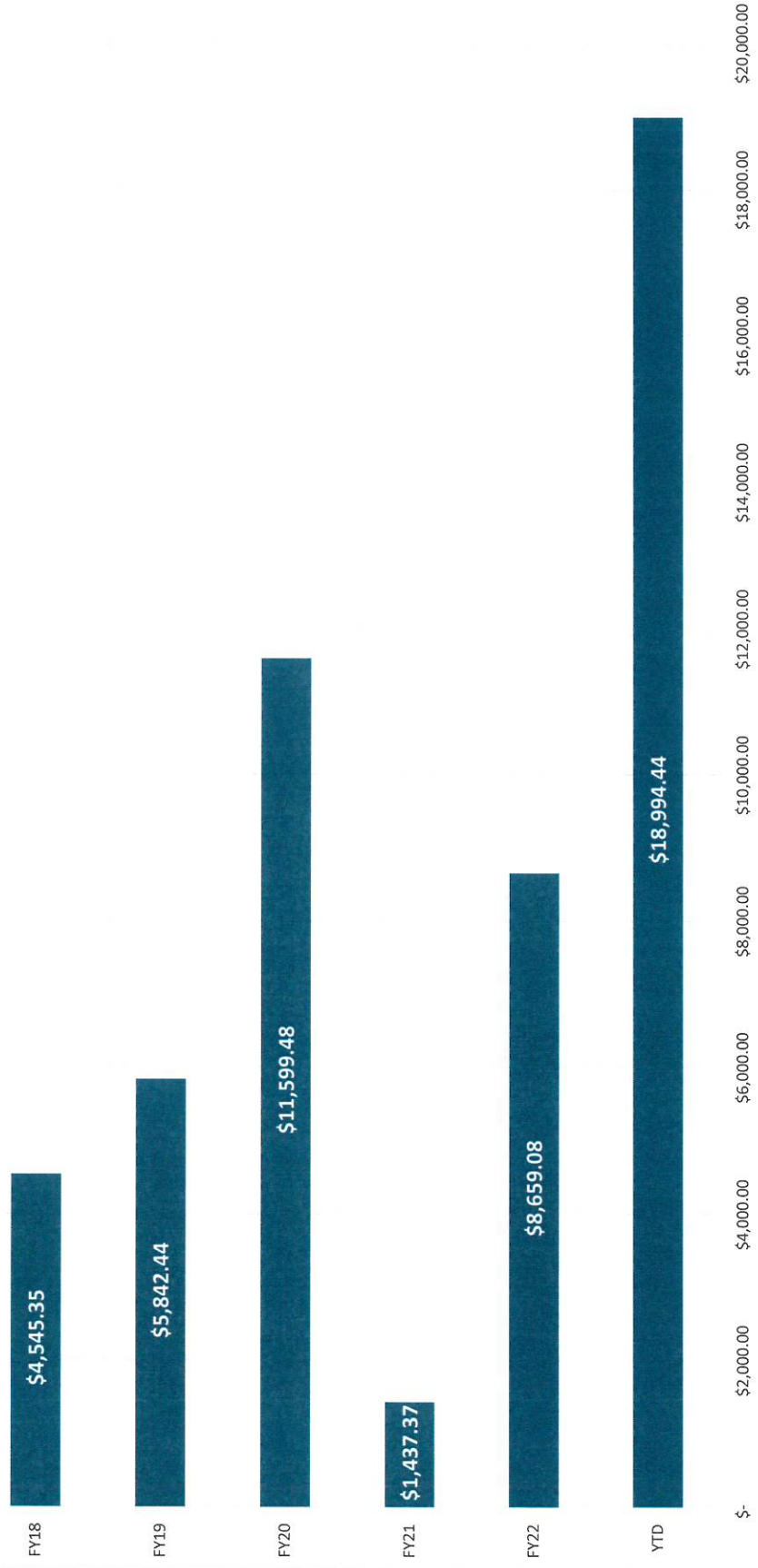


## SOU CALL OUT

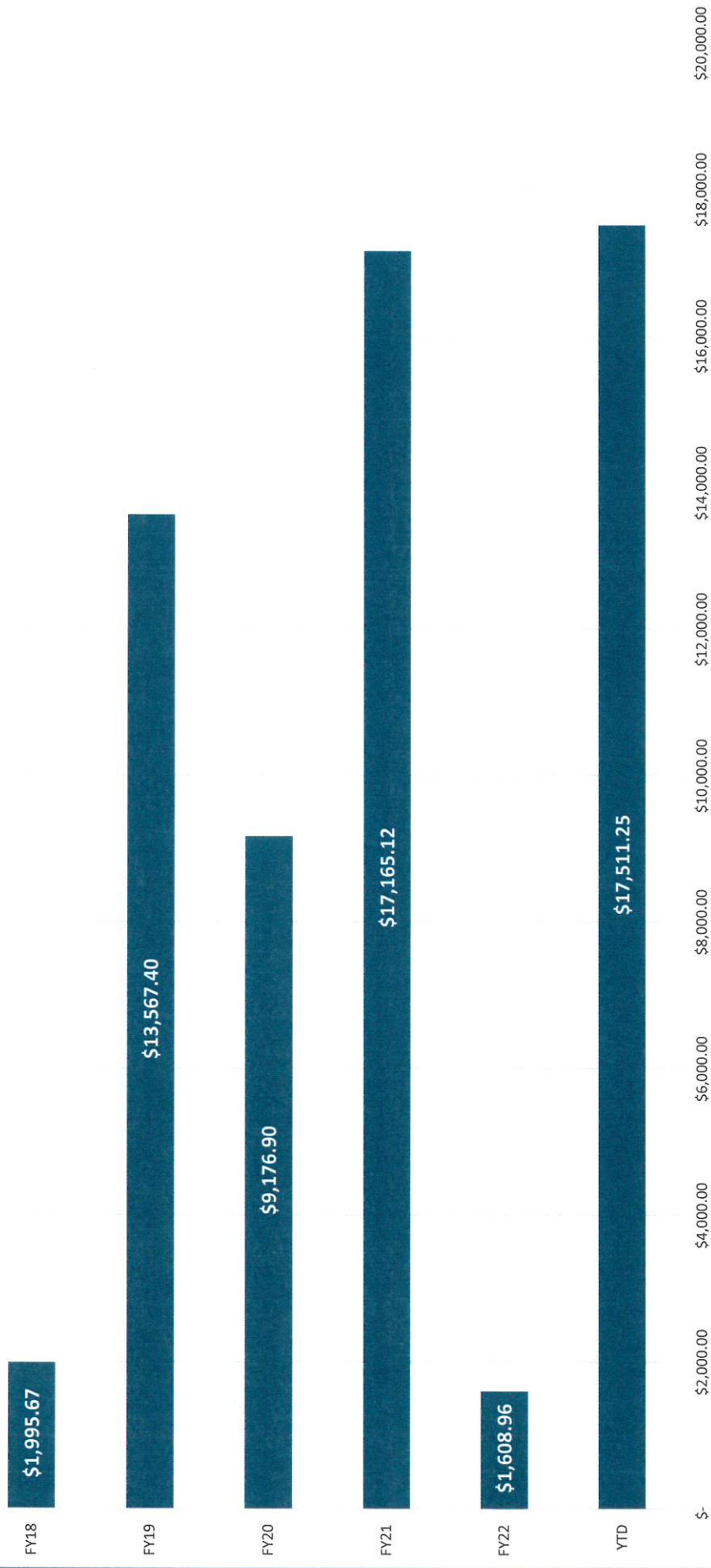




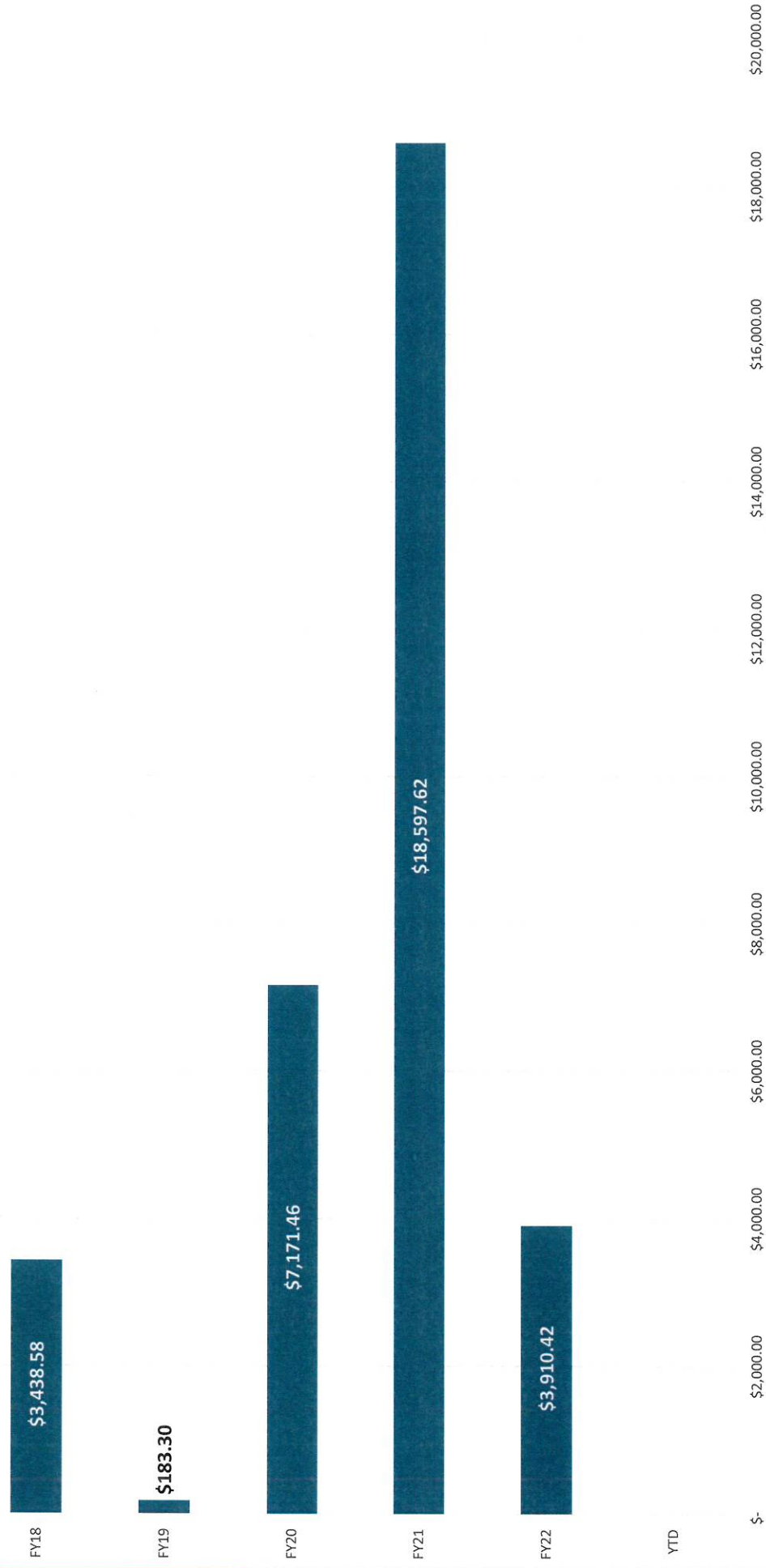
## OLD HOME DAY



## POLLS



## VIP VISITS





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SUPPORTING THE MEN  
AND WOMEN OF THE  
LONDONDERRY POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**

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